

Philip. Froissart tells us how the English knights went about crying to each other : ' Ha, by holy Mary ! how proud will the French be now, for the heap of peasants they have slain ! I wish to G-od Philip van Artevelde had had two thousand of our lances and six thousand of our archers ; then not one Frenchman would have escaped death or capture.' The commonalty were no less eager for the reconquest of Flanders, for the Earl on his restoration had shown himself more unfavourable than the dictator to English merchants and English trade.

Even the Church had her own reasons for lending active support to a campaign in the Low Countries. The absurd division of Christendom between Urban of Rome and Clement of Avignon affected the destiny of the Flemings. Ghent and her allies obeyed the Roman Pope. The King of France had marched against them with the blessing of the chair of Avignon, and had displayed on the field of Rosbec the sacred oriflamme, which might be unfolded only against heretics. The Vatican had been less slow than the Court of Westminster to perceive that its interests were bound up with the cause of civic independence in Flanders. Urban had sent over a commission to Spencer, Bishop of Norwich, to raise and conduct an English crusade against the French Clementists. Spencer was the Bishop in whom he justly placed the most confidence for such a purpose ; for he was pre-eminently a Papal Bishop, and pre-eminently a fighting man. His recent campaign against the peasants of East Anglia was the talk of the day. He set about the task committed him with characteristic energy. During the summer of 1382 all England, but especially the Eastern Counties, resounded with preparations for a crusade. The trumpet of the Church militant was heard in the land. The friars, who were as much the special servants of the Papacy as Spencer himself, used all their arts and all their influence to rouse enthusiasm and to raise money. The bulk of the nation looked on with quiet approval, for the quarrel of Urban against Clement was also that of England against France. A Canon of St. Mary's Abbey, Leicester, thus describes the proceedings:—* The Bishop collected an incredible sum of money, gold and silver, jewels